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BOOK REVIEWS

A HISTORY OF SCULPTURE. BY HAROLD NORTH FOWLER, Ph.D., Professor Western Reserve University. The Macmillan Company, New York, Publishers. Price $2.00.

This book which is about the size of the current novel gives a sketch of the history of sculpture from the beginning of civilization in Egypt and Babylonia to the present day. It is intended as a hand-book for the use of the general public and young students and as such it may be commended. To bring the whole history of sculpture within the range of a publication of this size and type is an enormous undertaking, and could but result in a rather dry catalogue of achievements. Historical facts here are put together in an orderly methodical fashion, but the inspiration, the charm, the real allurement of the examples as works of art is almost completely lost. The book is scholarly, but in no wise inspiring. Yet after all how impossible it would be to transmit through the medium of a descriptive catalogue the enchantment of such works as the "Nike of Samothrace" or the "Aphrodite from Melos." The history of sculpture in the United States is recorded in something less than eighteen pages. A good many names are given which are not well known, and some that are very well known are very briefly noted. Concluding the chapter the author says that no American sculptor has yet arisen who can claim to be equal of the greatest masters of all time, but that many sculptors in the United States today are working earnestly, seriously and conscientiously, and that their work shows vigor and promise. There are some who are of the opinion that Augustus Saint-Gaudens will be in the future numbered among the great masters of all time, and that certain other American sculptors may also aspire to such distinction. In treating of modern sculpture in Germany, Professor Fowler passes over very lightly the modernistic school and in referring to French contemporary work, he names Rodin last among the modern masters placing considerable emphasis on the supposedly detrimental influence that he has had upon the younger scupltors of his day. It is a very difficult thing to classify merit and it is an impossible thing to do justice to art in an historical dictionary. While Professor Fowler gives a vast amount of valuable information in the way of dates and facts in this history of sculpture, he lessens the value of the publication by attempting critical comment in a space too limited for the requirements of justice.

HISTORIC STYLES IN FURNITURE. BY VIRGINIA ROBIA. Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, Publishers. Price $3.00 net.

The large and increasing interest in house furnishing and decoration should prove more than adequate reason for the republication in book form of the several chapters which make up this volume. It was about ten years ago that this history of furniture was originally issued by the publishers of *The House Beautiful* for special sale in connection with their publication. It deals with the furniture of the Middle Ages, and the early centuries in Italy, France, Germany and the low countries as well as in later days in England, France and America. It is as these publishers claim merely a bird's eye view of the development of style in furniture, but it is admirably arranged and attractively illustrated, and what is more it gives the reader a desire for further information.

POEMS OF WAR AND PEACE. BY ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON, Bobbs-Merrill, New York, Publishers.

This little book of poems by the Permanent Secretary of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, who for many years was Associate Editor of the *Century Magazine*, is a welcome addition to our store of American verse. The style is both graceful and artistic; the thought as well as the expression poetical. Few finer tributes have been written than the poem by Mr. Johnson on Karl Bitter. It was read by the author at the Karl Bitter Memorial Meeting; later it was published in the Karl Bitter Memorial Number of THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE OF ART and now finds inclusion in this volume of Poems of War and Peace. There is fine emotion in the still shorter poem of "Prayer in the Dark," and the lines entitled "Love Letters at Auction" are particularly delightful. But all of these poems are musical and ring true.